

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINSCO QUARRY HEIGHTS J2 CZ  
DIA WASHDC

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BUENOS AIRES FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, BL  
SUBJECT: MNR NOMINATES VICTOR PAZ FOR PRESIDENT; BANZER SAYS  
ONLY COMPLETE CHAOS WILL STOP THE ELECTION PROCESS

1. SUMMARY: THE HISTORICAL WING OF THE MNR PARTY NOMINATED VICTOR PAZ AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON MAY 23. HOWEVER, PAZ WAS GRANTED AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY IF HE CHOOSES AND THROW THE MNR'S SUPPORT BEHIND ANOTHER CANDIDATE. PAZ HAS LINES OPEN TO ALL THE CANDIDATES AND WHETHER HE WILL SUPPORT OR ALLY WITH ANOTHER CANDIDATE IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION. HIS REMARKS AT THE MNR CONVENTION SEEM TO INDICATE THAT HE IS LEANING TOWARD AN ALLIANCE WITH HERNAN SILES ZUAZO. PRESIDENT BANZER MEANWHILE SAID THAT ONLY IN A SITUATION OF "COMPLETE ANARCHY AND CHAOS", WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE WOULD OCCUR, WOULD THE GOB STOP THE ELECTION PROCESS AND HE REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO RUN "THE CLEANEST ELECTION IN BOLIVIA'S  
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HISTORY". END SUMMARY

2. THE MNR (HISTORICAL WING) CONCLUDED ITS TWO DAY CONVENTION MAY 23 BY REELECTING VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO AS NATIONAL PARTY CHIEF AND PROCLAIMING HIM THEIR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, PAZ WAS GRANTED FULL POWER TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND, IF HE CHOOSES, WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY

IN ORDER TO THROW THE MNR'S SUPPORT BEHIND ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

3. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "PRESENCIA" PAZ TOLD THE PRESS AT THE CONVENTION THAT THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING HIS CANDIDACY IS SUBJECT TO A SERIES OF CONDITIONS WHICH WILL BE CLARIFIED IN TALKS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. PAZ, WITH LEADER OF THE PRA, WALTER GUEVARA ARCE, AT HIS SIDE, THEN SOMEWHAT NARROWED THE POSSIBILITIES BY SAYING THAT HIS POSITION "WILL BE ONE OF OPPOSITION" TO THE PLAN SUPPORTED BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. PAZ ADDED, "I SAID ON ARRIVAL IN THE COUNTRY. WE ARE IN THE OPPOSITION AND THAT WILL BE THE SYMBOL OF OUR ACTIONS."

4. WHILE PAZ THUS SEEMED TO BE ELIMINATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING GENERAL JUAN PEREDA, HIS ACTIONS AT THE CONVENTION, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SEEM TO INDICATE HE MAY BE LEANING TOWARD AN AGREEMENT WITH SILES ZUAZO. DURING THE FINAL EVENING SESSION A NUMBER OF POLITICAL LEADERS FROM OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES VISITED THE MNR CONVENTION INCLUDING GUEVARA ARCE OF THE PRA WITH WHOM PAZ HAS FORMED AN ALLIANCE; JOSE PATINO AYOROA, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE GUTIERREZ WING OF THE FSB; BENJAMIN MIGUEL, THE CHIEF OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH IS SUPPORTING GENERAL BERNAL AND GUILLERMO PONTE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY WHICH IS SUPPORTING SILES ZUAZO. AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL PAZ TOLD THE CONVENTION THAT THEIR VISITS CONFIDENTIAL

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WERE AN "INDICATION OF THE MATURITY THE COUNTRY HAS DEVELOPED". THEN NUFLO DE CHAVEZ AND FEDERICO ALVAREZ PLATA OF SILES ZUAZO'S OWN MNRI ENTERED AND THE CONVENTION CHANTED "UNITY" TO WHICH PAZ RESPONDED "THIS GENERAL CLAMOR FOR UNITY IS AN INDICATION OF THE INTUITION OF THE PARTY, BECAUSE UNITY IS THE ONLY WAY THAT WILL LEAD US TO RENEW THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION.

5. MEANWHILE PRESIDENT BANZER TOLD THE PRESS MAY 23 THAT ONLY "IN A CLIMATE OF ABSOLUTE ANARCHY, OF ABSOLUTE CHAOS, IN WHICH CLEARLY A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE WOULD THE ELECTION PROCESS BE STOPPED", AN EVENTUALITY HE DID NOT THINK WOULD DEVELOP. BANZER CHARACTERIZED RECENT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AT PEREDA RALLIES IN ACHACACHI AND TIAHUANACU AS "ISOLATED EVENTS" AND REITERATED THAT THE GOB PLANNED TO RUN "THE CLEANEST ELECTION IN OUR HISTORY".

6. COMMENT: DESPITE PAZ' WORDS IN SUPPORT OF UNITY NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET TO INDICATE THAT PAZ AND SILES ZUAZO HAVE RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES, PARTICULARLY OVER THE ROLE OF THE PCB (MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY) AND THE MIR IN THE UPCOMING CAMPAIGN. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PAZ STILL HAS A LINE OPEN TO MILITARY-BACKED CANDIDATE JUAN PEREDA AND THAT CHANCES OF AN

ALLIANCE WITH PEREDA, WHILE DIMINISHING, ARE NOT COMPLETELY  
CLOSED.  
BOEKER

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## Message Attributes

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